



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

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TENNCARE BEGINS DENTAL CONTRACT BID PROCESS

DENTAL BENEFITS MANAGER TO BE SELECTED BY OCTOBER

NASHVILLE, TENN—This week, the TennCare Bureau announced that the request for proposal (RFP) has been released for companies interested in submitting a bid to become TennCare's dental benefits manager (DBM). The state chose not to renew its existing contract with Doral Dental in April.

The TennCare DBM is responsible for all aspects of delivering dental services to the approximately 630,000 children covered by TennCare. The TennCare program does not offer dental benefits for adults.

"TennCare expects the contract winner to focus on producing positive outcomes for our dental program by maintaining a sufficient network of qualified dentists accessible to children in our program and communicating with TennCare children and their parents about the importance of prevention and routine dental care," said Dr. James Gillcrist, TennCare dental director. "It's also important to note that TennCare's new DBM contract will have stronger lobbying and ethics provisions to help better assure the state that contractors are not using TennCare money to pay government officials."

The DBM pays providers, helps children find a dentist in their area and even schedules specialists appointments when necessary in addition to conducting outreach efforts and providing customer support. In exchange for managing the dental program, TennCare will pay the DBM an administrative fee. The three-year contract has a two-year extension option.

Final bids are due to the state no later than August 22, 2005 before 2:00 p.m. CDST. TennCare expects to be able to award the contract on August 31, 2005 with an effective date of October 1, 2005.

TennCare is Tennessee's expanded Medicaid program providing health insurance to approximately 1.3 million Tennesseans.

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